SENATE BILL 2899

By Stanley

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 40, relative to victims' rights.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 40-38-103(a)(2), is amended by deleting the language "Whenever possible, be" and by substituting instead the language "Be".

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 40-38-103(a)(2), is further amended by designating the current language, as amended by SECTION 1, as subdivision (A) and by adding the following language as a new subdivision (B):

(B) An entry of any plea agreement related to a violent crime involving the death of a family member or serious injury shall not be made for a period of forty-eight (48) hours from the time the victim of such crime is advised and informed of such plea agreement;

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 40-38-114(a), is amended by adding the following language at the end of the subsection:

The victim shall be given a period of no less than forty-eight (48) hours from the time of an initial conference concerning such final disposition until such final disposition is commenced in order for the victim to have the opportunity to fully comprehend the consequences of the disposition.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008, the public welfare requiring it.